

After the very warm and productive October, November was cold and wet throughout, with frost most nights, to be followed in turn by a muggy, misty early December. This in turn produced another delayed mass-emergence, mainly of the usual winter geometers, but also of *Brachionycha sphinx*, with several deep-chocolate specimens of ab. *fusca*, and notably of *Ptilophora plumigera*, which appeared at light in huge numbers (91 on 2nd December).

It is perhaps worth adding that in this area there has also been a spectacular increase in the number of glow-worms during the wet summer. This beautiful addition to our evenings was a real compensation for the rotten weather! — DAVID WEDD, The Lodge, Sentry Hill, Marlow.

A HITHERTO UNRECORDED FOODPLANT OF COLEOPHORA TAENIIPENNELLA H.S. (LEP., COLEOPHORIDAE). — On the 5th of October 1985 I came upon a strong colony of this species feeding on bulbous rush (*Juncus bulbosus*) in Epping Forest. The rush there is of the viviparous form and only the ungerminated seeds offer a suitable pabulum to the larvae. A second visit on the 23rd of October showed very few seedheads in edible condition and the number of larval cases greatly reduced. Because of the relatively narrow girth of the seed-capsules, the cases formed within are more elongate than those occurring on *J. articulatus*, with the silk projecting further beyond the husk at each end, that at the oral end being heavily encrusted with seeds. This fairly widespread species appears to have gone unrecorded in south Essex (VC18) since about 1900, when Whittle found it in the Southend area. A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3AF.

PHYLLONORYCTER COMPARELLA DUP. FEEDING ON POPULUS NIGRA. — I noticed mines on a hybrid black poplar at Box Hill on the 2nd. October 1985. Returning to collect some on the 10th. I found them fairly plentiful on one tree, with about a third showing that they had emerged already. The moths proved to be *comparella* of which there is a colony nearby on the usual grey poplar. MBGBI 2 gives *P. alba* and *canescens* as foodplants and Emmet's *Field Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera* mentions *P. nigra* as a possibility. It is pleasing to turn the possibility into certainty. R. FAIRCLOUGH, Blencathra, Deanoak Lane, Leigh, Surrey, RH2 8PZ.

EUPITHECIA DISTINCTARIA H.S.: THYME PUG (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE) IN ROSS-SHIRE — A single male of this species was caught in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap at Inchbae, near Garve, (Site No. 431, O.S. ref NH 404 693) on the night of 11/12-vii-1985. Identification was confirmed by examination of the genitalia. So far as I am aware *E. distinctaria* has not previously been recorded for Ross-shire. It can be very difficult to distinguish adults of this species from other *Eupithecia*'s and this has undoubtedly led to it being overlooked in many localities.